

## Poetry Writing

The contestant must compose and submit in writing an original poetry composition. The contestant should keep in mind his purpose for the poem, that is, why he is writing it, and what effect he is attempting to achieve. The poem may be a lyric poem, a folk ballad, or a narrative poem. The poem is to be written during the school's allotted time block. The topic, chosen by the FA Director, will be announced at that time. Grades 4<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> will be given one hour, 10<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grades will be given two hours to turn in a final copy.

A copy of the final poem, along with judging sheets for each, should be emailed. The original should be maintained by the home school. The copy must be readable when printed. Make sure students write dark enough that it prints well. All unreadable entries will be disqualified and not judged. Be sure each entry is labeled correctly with the student's name, grade, and school. The finished poems are to be emailed to the judging school by the date given, March 1<sup>st</sup>.

It should be no shorter than 8 lines for 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grades/14 lines for 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades and no longer than 30 lines. Variations from these line limitations must show evidence of very careful attention to word choice and structure, plus a strong thematic basis. Only one poem per contestant is allowed.

## JUDGING FORM - POETRY WRITING (4<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Name:	Grade:
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School:
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Title:
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JUDGING CRITERIA	Possible Points	Points Awarded
Level of Difficulty (10-difficult, 7-average, 4-simple)	10	
THEME (Biblical or Historical) Poem has one central idea; unity in viewpoint.	10	
<b>USE OF POETIC MATERIAL</b>		
Shows feeling, sincerity; conveys emotion	10	
Original, fresh use of words; avoids triteness.	10	
Meter is regular, without jolting variations. Rhythm is smooth. Rhyme, if used is generally good.	10	
Uses poetic devices such as imagery, figures of speech, symbolism and parallelism.	10	
<b>MECHANICS</b>		
Neatness, general appearance	10	
Spelling	10	
Punctuation	10	
Grammar; subject-verb agreement, pronoun agreement, etc. (Unusual grammar is acceptable if it is clearly used as a poetic device.	10	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	

Comments:
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Judge's Signature) \_\_\_\_\_